

# Wikins Starts Story Calmly, Finally Breaks

Prisoner Voluble While Guided by His Attorney, but Grows Nervous When Attacked by Prosecutor

Sobs Over Death of Wife

Accused Physician Denies in Detail All Testimony Brought to Convict Him

Staff Correspondence  
MINOELA, Long Island, June 24.—With his cross-examination barely begun, Dr. Walter Keene Wikins, charged with murdering his wife, stepped off the witness stand at 4:30 this afternoon, leaving many contradictions behind him. He walked over to his counsel with a cheerful air and shook hands with each in turn, greatly relieved, apparently, that the fierce grilling to which District Attorney Weeks subjected him was over for the time being. He takes the stand again to-morrow morning.

The District Attorney confined his cross-examination to emphasizing certain incidents in the past of the defendant and in getting him to contradict previous testimony delivered before Judge Neu and signed by himself. Under direct examination Dr. Wikins swore with quiet emphasis that he did not kill his wife; that he never took a blood-stained suit of clothes to Jacobson, the tailor, to be cleaned; that the Swiss hunting case watch found in the sofa was not the watch he said was stolen from him by burglars; that the love knot stick pin produced in court was different from the pin that disappeared on the night of the murder; that he had never seen the 1915 will before March 4 of this year, and that he did not insert the date alongside of the signature of his wife.

Devoted to Each Other  
The defendant testified that Mrs. Wikins and he had been devoted to each other. He described her as a "woman of great magnetism; a woman of attractive personality and bright intellect." She had never interfered with him in money matters, and they were on the best of terms, he said.

The defendant broke down completely and hastened the adjournment of the court in the middle of the day. He was telling what he happened at the hospital when he heard that his wife was dead. "It certainly was a shock," he began. "It was a stunning blow to me. I fell back on my seat and had a fit of sobbing. I thought I would have died, and that my heart would stop beating. I was." And here his voice trailed off and he began to shake with sobs.

By the time he reached the door he had recovered his composure and his face bore no signs of the brief storm which had shaken him.

When the defendant took the stand early in the morning he was absolutely calm. A faint smile played imperceptibly on his face. His readiness to give testimony amounted almost to garrulity. Time and again the judge or counsel had to stem the flowing tide of his narrative, and to curb his passion for detail. His voice fluctuated unevenly, and words were frequently lost in his beard. His enunciation was guttural, rapid and hard to follow.

As the day advanced the assurance which Mr. Wikins' direct examination had bred in him wilted before the heavy onslaught of the District Attorney. For the last hour his passion for detail, his heret and nervous. All his sang froid left him. He was decidedly nervous when Mr. Wikins began to cross-examine him on the divorce obtained in California by his first wife.

"Do you remember the grounds stated in the divorce application brought in by your first wife, Grace Mansfield?" asked Mr. Wikins. "It interested me very little when I heard them," was the doctor's reply.

Didn't Care Very Much  
Q.—Wasn't the divorce brought for "failure to support, idleness, profligacy and dissipation?" A.—Perhaps it was. Q.—Why didn't you defend it? A.—I didn't. I didn't care very much. The statements were false anyway, and I wanted a good deal.

Q.—In other words, you started to be "framed up" very early in life. Q.—I was very young, and I was being intimate with a woman called Florence A. Merrill? A.—She did not. Q.—Did you ever express love and affection for this woman while you were the husband of Grace Mansfield, and weren't there some letters between you? A.—I don't remember. Q.—Didn't you show Miss Merrill a paper purporting to be your divorce from your wife, although you were married to her? A.—I don't remember. I did have a patient of that name once.

Q.—When did you first know your wife had obtained a divorce? A.—Legally, I was never informed of it, but she married again, so I felt at liberty to do so.

Q.—You loved her, didn't you? A.—Well; yes; but I blamed her for our little girl's death. The child caught a chill under an open window while my wife was at a matinee, and died of pneumonia. This caused hard feelings between us, which I never quite forgot.

Never Bought Her Anything  
Q.—Wasn't it true that you left your wife because her father, Mr. Mansfield, did not furnish her home and pay you the \$150 a month promised you when she started? A.—No; I left because there were more opportunities for me in the East.

Q.—Did you ever buy anything for your first wife during your married life? A.—No; but I should have looked after her if she had come East with me.

Q.—You said under direct examination that the last Mrs. Wikins was prepossessing. A.—I did not. I said she had a bright mentality, and that when she went to card parties she looked as well as any other woman.

Q.—Was she clean? A.—Yes, when she went out in a social way.

Q.—What about the condition of the house at Long Beach? A.—I will not answer that. It looks different now from what it was at the time of the accident. I will say that there was neglect in housekeeping.

Q.—Did any one disturb your rooms on the night of the crime? A.—Yes, the burglars ransacked things.

Dr. Wikins had heretofore repeat-

# Incident in Court

SIR ASBY SPARKES, of the Cunard Steamship Company, was the recipient yesterday of a mysterious looking package from Canada. Not knowing any one in Canada and recalling the numerous packages containing bombs recently sent through the mails, he communicated with the police.

Inspector Owen Eagen was called and carefully removed the wrapping from the package and found it contained tobacco.

WHAT is believed by court officials to be the first annulment of marriage on the ground of deception awarded yesterday by Justice Finch in the Bronx Supreme Court to Mrs. Barbara Grube, fifty-two, of 621 East 157th Street.

Mrs. Grube's action was based on the allegation that Edward F. Grube, fifty-nine, of 249 West 127th Street, represented himself as an American citizen when he wooed and won her last January. They lived together two weeks, Mrs. Grube alleged, when she learned that Grube still was a German subject. The discovery came about when Grube was in a hospital as the result of an accident. She went to his trunk and found his alien enemy registration card.

"YOU acted the part of a good citizen," said Magistrate House in the Traffic Court yesterday to Benjamin Rubin, of Monticello, N. Y., who had been summoned for having his rear

license plate obstructed from view.

Rubin said he had come all the way from Monticello to answer the summons.

"And that is about 125 miles upstate," asked the court. The defendant said it was.

"I'll impose the lowest fine I can," the magistrate said. "You are fined \$10."

This was only one of the 278 cases yesterday in the Traffic Court, most of them for minor offenses.

TONY LICATO, a stevedore, is an imagist, a futurist, an impressionist, or something of the sort, says Lieutenant John J. Gallagher, of the Fort Hamilton police station.

Tony, explained the lieutenant, yesterday took an oath over the telephone that there was "the body of a woman" tied up in a sack floating near the steamship Quaro, at 400 foot of Sixty-third Street, Bay Ridge.

"Wouldn't the police, for God's sake, send some body down and take the terrible thing away?"

Carried calls to the harbor police followed, and half a dozen detectives went to the waterside. Hundreds of sailors from the Bay Ridge Naval Station crowded the wharf and soon the shore was lined with a great crowd of pop-eyed, wondering inquirers. The police boat was grappling "the terrible thing" on a hook. As it was slowly being lifted out of the water, Tony and everybody saw—a mattress.

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Statement of the Hotel  
The hotel management was also mute on the subject. Detectives, private and city, declined to talk, and the Biltmore's lawyers, Edwards, Murphy & Minton, contented themselves with issuing the following formal statement:

"On May 20, 1919, Mrs. Clarence Millhiser, of Richmond, Va., who, with her late husband, was a guest at the Biltmore, produced to the hotel one of the safe deposit boxes maintained for the convenience of guests desiring to store valuables.

It is understood that the most important piece of jewelry that has disappeared is a diamond necklace. The necklace said to be worth about \$200,000. Pendants, lavallieres, earrings and other trinkets also are reported missing.

Mr. and Mrs. Millhiser had been occasional patrons of the Biltmore for the last four years. While they were here in May 1918, Mrs. Millhiser became ill and on May 19 was removed to Mt. Sinai Hospital, where she died May 20. At this time, Mrs. Millhiser was still at the hotel.

She packed her valuables into two packages and took them to the safe deposit window at the hotel office, where she asked for a box. The clerk on duty set this before her. It is understood that she placed the jewelry in it, locked it with the key provided, turned the box over to the clerk and went away with the key.

That day she left the hotel. The funeral of Mrs. Millhiser took place five days later. On June 13 she returned to the hotel and asked for her safe deposit box. It is said that on opening it she discovered that the greater part of her jewelry was not there.

Among the many theories advanced as possible solutions of the case, it is understood that the police and private detectives are working chiefly upon two.

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One of these is that Mrs. Millhiser, shocked and agitated over the death of her husband, may have been perfectly clear in her own mind where she placed the jewelry.

The other is that while she was placing it in the safe deposit box some clever thief managed to abstract part of it without either the clerk or Mrs. Millhiser realizing what he was doing.

All of the pawnshops of the city have been notified of the character of the missing jewelry, but so far none has reported a single clue.

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At its conclusion no one but Mr. Murphy would talk. He said that he knew what valuables are gone, if they are lost.

He added that no one believed the theft, there had been a theft, was an "inside job." He explained that the safe deposit clerk was unable to open individual boxes. He has, Mr. Murphy said, a master key, with which he opens the safe and takes out the boxes, but the boxes can be opened only by the persons renting them, who have their own keys, for which there are no duplicates.

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Mrs. Millhiser, who is now at Deal Beach, N. J., is about forty-five and attractive. Her husband was a manufacturer of woollenware and had New York offices at 50 East Forty-second Street. He was president of the Richmond Cord Works and president of the Bedford Paper and Paper Company, and was also identified with other large Southern concerns.

Story of 1915 Will  
When the 1915 will was handed to Dr. Wikins he looked it over and flatly denied having tampered with it in any way. He told of finding it in an oak chest in his New York home on March 4. It was in the same condition then as now, and he believed both the signature and date to be in the handwriting of his late wife, he said.

In the course of his narrative Dr. Wikins told of detectives visiting him in the Nassau County jail and asking him to describe his watch and pin, while they made inquiries of the other inmates. He also told of his trousers being taken away from him in the jail.

In presenting his case for the defense, Mr. Wikins described the early life of the defendant, first on the farm, then in a shop, later as property clerk in a hospital for the insane, prior to taking his medical course.

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# \$300,000 in Jewels Lost At Biltmore

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Detectives at Work on Case Nearly Two Weeks; Inside Job Impossible, It Is Said

On Friday, June 13, Mrs. Clarence Millhiser, widow of a merchant of Richmond, Va., reported to the management of the Hotel Biltmore that jewelry worth in the neighborhood of \$300,000 had been taken from the safe deposit box she had rented on May 20 from the hotel.

When news of the alleged loss became public yesterday, detectives from several agencies, city police, two firms of lawyers and all the forces at the hotel's command had been working on the case for nearly two weeks. All outward appearances they were no nearer a solution than when it was first reported.

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# JOHN WANAMAKER

THE STORE THAT REFLECTS THE GOOD TASTE OF NEW YORK

JOHN WANAMAKER  
Formerly A. T. Stewart & Co.  
Broadway at Ninth, New York.  
Store Hours, 9 to 5:30.

This is June 25!  
Good morning!  
The weather today will probably cloudy.

## The Only Hope of the Troubled World

at this time is to go straight on in everything that intensifies Americanism.

It has some enemies who will show their teeth in wild acts of hostility which, when the finals are played, will only add to their own ruin.

The prayer of humanity is for all that is unfolded

by the American Flag

Nothing else will satisfy the multitudes all over the world who have longed for this hour and been wounded in body and soul while waiting for the dawning of these days.

It is hard for pride and power to submit, but there is one who will "speak peace unto the people" and who bids them not to return unto folly.

Give us plain and pure patriotism of the George Washington type.

(Signed)

John Wanamaker  
Citizen  
June 25, 1919.

## Special

DRESSMAKING SALONS  
AU QUATRIEME

31 Dresses at Greatly Reduced Prices

Included are little summer frocks, silk dresses, and evening gowns.

No alterations will be made as

Prices are the Lowest of the Season

Fourth floor, Old Building.

## After the honeymoon has passed into a tender memory

one of these beautiful pieces or sets of

## STERLING SILVER

will remain a tangible reminder of a happy occasion and a good friend.

Candlesticks, pr. \$9.50 to \$90  
Flower vase, pr. \$3.75 to \$85  
Double vegetable dish, \$42.50 to \$105  
Coffee sets, pr. \$95 to \$165  
Tea sets, pr. \$120 to \$450  
Water pitcher, \$42.50 to \$115  
Sherbet set, 6 in case, pr. \$32  
Bonbon baskets, \$11 to \$27

## Also in sterling

Fruit bowls, fruit baskets, muffin dishes and covers, tea caddies, compotes, bridal sets, sugar and cream sets, bread trays, cake baskets.

Main floor, Old Building.

## Women's polo coats

For mountains and travel, great enveloping polo coats of cafe au lait polo cloth of a wonderful quality, the smartest sort of thing for sports, travel and steamer and mountain wear, made in two models with belts and large swaggar-looking pockets, \$59.50.

105 fine Summer frocks, \$9.75, \$12.50 and \$18.75; were \$13.75 to \$25.

Imported gingham and chambrays; also Devonshire cloths and linens; sizes 6 to 16 years.

70 young women's suits, \$25 to \$75; were \$37.50 to \$105.

Tricotine mostly—a few of serge, checked worsteds and wool velours.

25 smart trotteur frocks, \$55, \$65 and \$75; were \$62.50 to \$115.

Navy blue and beige tricotine; sizes 14 to 20 years.

25 young women's frocks, \$39.75 and \$49.50; were \$47.50 and \$55.

Wool jersey in navy blue and beige.

Second floor, Old Building.

## To day a day for linens

All of pure flax. Certain lots that, because broken in variety, we are marking to lower prices—get them while they are here.

Napkins, \$7.50 doz.

500 dozen, \$9.50 grade.

## Tablecloths, \$8.75

Heavy quality damask, 2 yards square, in six well assorted patterns. Same quality, 2 x 2 1/2 yards, \$11.

## Quarter to half less

are about 200 odd pattern tablecloths ranging in size from 2 1/2 x 2 1/2 yards to 2 1/2 x 4 yards, with many sizes between—new prices from \$7.75 to \$22.50.

## Crash toweling

3,500 yards extra heavy all-linen bleached or unbleached crash toweling for dish or roller towels, 18 inches wide, reduced to 25c yard.

## Crash towels

Also pure linen in a soft and absorbent quality, all white, red or blue borders, ready hemmed for tea or pantry use, reduced to \$4.80 dozen, from \$6.

## Dress linens

36-inch heavy oyster white linen for women's suits, dresses and separate skirts—1 grade for 75c yard.

First floor, Old Building.

## Moire bags only \$3.75

The newest sort of moire bags in black and midnight blue, fitted with purse and mirror, with